

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

5 maintaining information about executable code;

providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages;

10 displaying on a particular page in the shell user interface, a link associated with an executable code according to the information;

receiving a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface; and

15 taking action with respect to the executable code in response to the signal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is associated with a document produced by the executable code.

20 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the action comprises opening the document in the executable code.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the information comprises file association information.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein taking action comprises launching the executable code and opening the document in the executable code.

5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is associated with a link to a web location.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the link to a web location is displayed on the particular page in accordance with a query to a remote location.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein content corresponding to the link to a web location is stored locally making the content available for display when the computer system is not connected to the remote source.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the executable code comprises network access software, and wherein taking action comprises accessing the web location with the network access software.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the executable code comprises network access software, and wherein taking action comprises accessing locally-saved content from the web location with the network access software when a connection to the web location is not provided.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is associated with an external device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein taking action comprises displaying a page including settings of the external device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein taking action comprises starting operation of a task available to an application program.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein taking action comprises starting operation of a task available to an application program.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the shell user interface comprises a first page and a second page, and further comprising:

displaying on the first page a link associated with the
5 second page;

in response to a signal via the user interface indicative of a selection of the link associated with the second page, displaying the second page.

10 16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 15.

15 17. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

20 18. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:
maintaining information about executable code;
displaying a first page comprising:
a first link associated with a second page; and

a second link associated with a first executable code according to the information;

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first link via the user interface, displaying the second page;

5 and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the second link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the first executable code.

10 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

displaying on the second page a third link associated with a third page and a fourth link associated with a second executable code according to information in the database;

15 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the third link via the user interface, displaying the third page; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the fourth link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the second executable code.

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20. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 18.

21. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

displaying a link on a first page, the link being
5 associated with a task that is available in an application program;

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the task.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein taking action comprises starting operation of the task.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein taking action
15 comprises opening a second page directed to the task.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
displaying a link on the second page, the link on the second page being associated with the task; and

20 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the link on the second page via the user interface, starting operation of the task.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of links on a first page, each of the links being associated with a different task for the application program; and

5 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the links via the user interface, taking action with respect to the task associated with the link.

26. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 21.

27. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

maintaining information about tasks that are available for a plurality of application programs;

grouping a set of the tasks according to the information;

displaying links to each of the tasks in the set on a

20 first page, each of the links being associated with a particular task in the set; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the links via the user interface, taking action with respect to the task associated with the link.

28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 27.

5 29. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

maintaining information about links to web locations;

maintaining information about locally-stored files;

10 displaying on a first page, according to the information about the locally-stored files, a file link for each of the locally-stored files;

displaying on the first page, according to the information about the links to web locations, a web link for

15 each of the links to web locations; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the file links via the user interface, taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link; and

20 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the web links via the user interface, taking action with respect to the web location associated with the web link.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the file links are grouped together on the first page.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the web links are grouped together on the first page.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises executable code.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises launching an instance of the executable code.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises displaying an already-opened instance of the executable code.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises a document.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises displaying the document.

37. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
maintaining information about tasks that are available
from at least one application program;
displaying on the first page, a task link to each of the
5 tasks; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one
of the task links via the user interface, taking action with
respect to the task associated with the link.

10 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the task links are
grouped together on the first page.

15 39. A computer-readable medium having computer-
executable instructions for performing the method recited in
claim 37.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein taking action with
respect to the task comprises starting operation of the task.

20 41. The method of claim 37, wherein taking action with
respect to the task comprises opening a task page directed to
the task.

42. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
maintaining information about a task that is available
from an application program;
displaying, according to the information about the task,
5 a task link on the first page, the task link being associated
with the task; and
in response to a signal indicative of selection of the
task link and a file link via the user interface, taking
action with respect to the task on the file associated with
10 the file link.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein taking action
comprises starting operation of the task.

15 44. The method of claim 42, wherein taking action
comprises opening a task page directed to the task.

20 45. A computer-readable medium having computer-
executable instructions for performing the method recited in
claim 42.

46. A computer-readable medium having computer-
executable instructions for performing the method recited in
claim 29.

47. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

maintaining information about executable code;

5 maintaining information about files, the information including at least one item of information about each file;

displaying on a first page, a tile having a item link and at least one file link, the file link being associated with a particular item of information about a file, and the item link being associated with at least one executable code according to the information about executable codes;

10 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the file link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the executable code associated with the file that is associated with the file link; and

15 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the item link via the user interface, taking action with respect to item associated with the item link.

20 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the file comprises a document.

49. The method of claim 47, wherein the file comprises a link to a web location.

50. The method of claim 47, wherein the file comprises a program.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the item comprises a task available within the program.

52. The method of claim 47, wherein the tile comprises a plurality of item links, each of the item links being associated with a particular item of information about the file, and further comprising: in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the item links via the user interface, taking action with respect to item associated with the selected item link.

53. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface, comprising:

scanning files on the computer system and comparing those files to files in a catalog;

writing registration information regarding the file into a database when a file on the computer system is matched to one in the catalog; and

displaying in the section of the page of the user interface a link to a file according to the information.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the catalog is maintained on a remote computer.

55. The method of claim 53, further comprising
5 displaying in the section of the page of the user interface a plurality of links to a plurality of files that include registration information that meets the requirements of the query.

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60 56. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing a menu on the user interface, comprising:

providing a shell user interface that enables the display of one or more pages;

15 making an option available while displaying each of a plurality of pages, the option being associated with a file system comprising a plurality of favorites folders;

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the option when a first page is displayed in the shell user
20 interface, writing information about the first page into a selected one of the favorites folders:

displaying on a second page a link to the first page according to the information in the one favorites folder; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface, displaying the first page.

57. A computer system, comprising:

5 a database for maintaining information about files, the information including descriptive information about the files;

a connection to a networked environment;

a search engine linked to the networked environment, comprising:

10 a first search component that parses the descriptive information about the files in response to a search query; and

15 a second search component that, responsive a search of the descriptive information not returning an item, requests a remote search via the connection based on the search query.

58. The computer system of claim 57, wherein the information about files comprises category information, and

20 wherein the first search component comprises:

a first search subcomponent that parses the descriptive information in a select group of files based upon the category information in response to a search query; and

a second search subcomponent that, responsive to a search performed by the first search subcomponent not returning an item, parses the descriptive information about the files based upon the search query..

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59. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:
maintaining information about executable code;
10 providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages;
displaying on a particular page in the shell user interface, a link associated with an executable code according to the information;
15 receiving a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface;
taking action with respect to the executable code in response to the signal; and
in response to the executable code taking action with
20 respect to a file, associating information about the particular page with the file.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the file comprises a document.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein taking action comprises opening the document.

62. The method of claim 60, wherein taking action
5 comprises creating the document.

63. The method of claim 60, wherein taking action comprises using the document as a target.

64. The method of claim 59, wherein associating
10 information comprises associating metadata with the document.

65. The method of claim 59, further comprising:
displaying on another page in the shell user interface, a
15 link associated with the file according to the information
about the particular page;

receiving a signal indicative via the user interface of a
selection of the link associated with the file;

taking action with respect to the file in response to the
20 signal.

66. The method of claim 59, wherein the file comprises a
document, and taking action with respect to the file comprises
displaying the file.

67. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 65.

5 68. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:
maintaining information about associations between files and executable code;

10 providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages;

maintaining information about associations between pages of the shell user interface and executable code;

15 displaying on a particular page in the shell user interface, a link associated with a file according to the file association information and the information about association between pages of the shell user interface and the executable code;

20 receiving a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface; and

taking action with respect to the file in response to the signal.

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69. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure comprising:

a first data field comprising identification information about a file; and

5 a second data field associated with the identification information comprising information corresponding to a particular page within a multiple page interface.

10 70. The data structure of claim 69, wherein the second data field comprises information corresponding to a plurality of pages within the multiple page interface.

15 71. The data structure of claim 69, further comprising a third data field associated with the identification information including information corresponding to terms that are descriptive of the file and are capable of being found by a search.

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